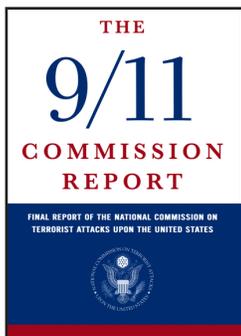




NATIONWIDE PUBLIC SAFETY BROADBAND NETWORK



Following the tragic events on September 11, 2001, the 9/11 Commission recommended the establishment of a nationwide, interoperable public safety communications network to resolve the communications challenges faced by emergency responders during their response efforts. The need for this network

and enhanced communications capabilities was further realized during the response to Hurricane Katrina in 2005 when existing networks failed and emergency response personnel could not communicate seamlessly with one another.

On February 22, 2012, President Obama signed into law H.R. 3630, the “Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2012”, which included provisions to reallocate critical radio spectrum to public safety and called for the creation of the Nationwide Public Safety Broadband Network (NPSBN). The law also established the First Responder Network Authority (FirstNet), an independent entity within the Department of Commerce’s National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA), to be responsible for the development, deployment and maintenance of the NPSBN. In addition, the law authorizes the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to conduct voluntary incentive auctions of unused commercial spectrum to provide \$7 billion for the construction and operation of the NPSBN. When completed, the nationwide network will provide a secure, reliable and dedicated interoperable network for emergency responders to communicate during an emergency.

NATIONWIDE GOVERNANCE: FIRSTNET AND PSAC

The law establishes FirstNet as the entity charged with all aspects of designing, developing and deploying the NSPBN, including operation and maintenance responsibilities and overseeing contracts with non-Federal entities. FirstNet’s activities are overseen by the FirstNet Board of Directors, which is comprised of the Secretary of Homeland Security, the Attorney General, and the Director of Office of Management and Budget (OMB), as well as 12 representatives of public safety, State and Local government, and the commercial wireless industry, appointed at the discretion of the Secretary of Commerce.



Since the establishment of FirstNet, the DHS Office of Emergency Communications (OEC) has been supporting FirstNet, as well as key Federal, State, Local and Tribal stakeholders, to ensure that the NSPBN meets the various

needs of the public safety community and provides seamless interoperable communications nationwide. Currently, OEC provides policy support to the DHS Secretary’s designee as a FirstNet Board member, National Preparedness and Programs Directorate Under Secretary Suzanne Spaulding.

The law also requires the creation of the Public Safety Advisory Committee (PSAC) to support FirstNet in carrying out its duties and ensure input from State, Local, Tribal and Territorial stakeholders. In establishing the membership of the PSAC, FirstNet decided to

leverage the current breadth and depth of knowledge of the SAFECOM program funded and administered by OEC. OEC provides administrative support and meeting facilitation for the PSAC's regularly scheduled meetings and teleconferences. In addition, through a Memorandum of Agreement with FirstNet, OEC provides additional work products to the FirstNet Board and the PSAC when requested.

OEC SUPPORT FOR STATE, LOCAL, AND TRIBAL IMPLEMENTATION

Since OEC was established by Congress, a key component of its efforts has been, and continues to be, engagement and collaboration with public safety and government at the Federal, State, Local, and Tribal levels.



To support broadband planning by State, Local and Tribal partners across the county, OEC

developed a wireless broadband planning template. OEC is assisting States with updating their Statewide Communication Interoperability Plans (SCIPs) through a series of SCIP workshops focused on broadband planning. OEC is also providing multiple online tools and technical assistance (TA) workshops, and has delivered broadband planning support through more than 40 engagements nationwide. These TA offerings include: broadband workshops, governance support, outreach support, coverage analysis, and NextGeneration 9-1-1 (NG911) workshops. The online tools available include: a Mobile Data Survey Tool (MDST), Frequency Mapping Tool (FMT), Communication Assets Survey and Mapping (CASM) Next Generation, and a Site Survey Tool (SST). These are all designed around the goal of sharing information between the Federal and State planners and FirstNet personnel who are developing the network.

ADDITIONAL OEC SUPPORT ACTIVITIES

In addition to its work with the PSAC and providing technical assistance to State, Local and Tribal jurisdictions, OEC is engaged in several other initiatives to support FirstNet and assist in the deployment of the NPSBN. OEC's Emergency Communications Preparedness Center (ECPC) was designated by FirstNet to coordinate the user requirements for the Federal users of the network. The ECPC is comprised of 14 Federal departments and agencies that have some involvement in emergency communications at the Federal level. Supported by OEC, the ECPC is collecting network requirements and security standards from each of the departments and agencies and providing them to FirstNet to ensure that the network meets the needs of its Federal users, in addition to State and Local public safety communities.

OEC is also working directly with FirstNet on issues related to the security and resiliency of the NPSBN. As part of this work, OEC identified and analyzed over 100 potential risks to the network's cyber infrastructure, including risks that result from the use of the network, such as open access of information. OEC engaged with various stakeholders with expertise on cyber threats and vulnerabilities to identify risks, including several identified as "high risks", and worked to develop solutions and protections to put in place. This Cyber Infrastructure Risk Assessment (CIRA) was completed and delivered to FirstNet in May 2013 and will continue to be updated as OEC continues to work to identify and offer solutions to other potential risks.

In addition, OEC has an interagency agreement in place with the Public Safety Communications Research (PSCR) Lab to provide technical analysis for national security and emergency preparedness (NS/EP) communications and ensuring that OEC's priority services, such as Government Emergency Telecommunications Service (GETS) and Wireless Priority Service (WPS), are taken into consideration during the development of the NPSBN.

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Please contact OEC@dhs.gov or visit www.dhs.gov (keyword OEC).